IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A method providing an interface to a storage object housed in a first storage environment, comprising: ~~,comprising;~~

acquiring an identifier for the storage object;

requesting a map and one or more extents for the storage object from a second storage environment;

establishing a configuration identifier associated with the map; and

using the identifier, the map, the one or more extents and the configuration identifier ~~with one or more accesses to the storage object~~ to access a storage device housing the storage object from the second storage environment.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in requesting the map, the map represents a logical representation of the storage object in a first storage environment.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein after establishing the configuration identifier, the map is modified and a subsequent configuration identifier is established for the modified map.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the use of the identifier, the map, the one or more extents and the configuration identifier is altered when the subsequent configuration identifier is established.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the method steps ~~are~~ is represented as an independent ~~functions~~ function in a dynamic linked library.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the method steps ~~are~~ is represented as an independent ~~functions~~ function in a shared library.

8. (Currently amended) An application programming interface (API) library, comprising:

an establish map module operable to generate a persistent data structure of a storage object housed within a first storage environment;

an assign configuration identifier module operable to associate with the persistent data structure and notify a client module in a second storage environment when the persistent data structure is modified;

a retrieve extent module operable to provide one or more extents associated with the storage object to the client module, wherein the client module is configured to use the persistent data structure and the one or more extents to access a storage device housing the storage object from the second storage environment; and

an alternate map module activated to generate one or more alternate persistent data structures for the storage object when the storage object is replicated within the first storage environment.

9. (Original) The API library of claim 8, wherein the library further comprises an obtain storage object identifier module operable to associate a unique identifier handle with the storage object for use by the client module.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The API library of claim 8, wherein the retrieve extent module is configurable to provide a defined number of the extents.

12. (Original) The API library of claim 8, wherein the library is provided as a dynamic linked library.

13. (Original) The API library of claim 8, wherein the library is provided as a shared library.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A storage object interface system, comprising:

an application programming interface (API) library having one or more modules operable to map the storage object within a first storage management environment, provide one or more extents associated with the storage object, and provide notifications when one or more of the storage object's physical locations are altered; and

a client module in a second storage environment using one or more of the modules of the API library to ~~interface with~~ access one or more storage devices housing the storage object.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the API library includes a storage map module and an assign configuration identifier module.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the API library further includes an alternative map module.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the API library executes in the first and second storage environments.

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the API library executes in the first and second storage environments.

20. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the API library is a dynamic linked library.

21. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the API library is a shared library.

22. (Currently amended) An apparatus to interface with a storage object, comprising:

an application programming interface (API) library providing stable access to the storage object located in a first storage environment;

a client module linked to the API library, wherein the client module is executed in a second storage environment, and wherein the client module is configured to use the API library to access one or more extents of a storage device housing the storage object; and

wherein the client module is notified by a notification module residing within the API library when one or more ~~of the~~ physical locations associated with the storage object change in the first storage environment.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the apparatus is used to interface a first file system associated with the storage object in the first storage environment to a second file system associated with the client module in the second storage environment.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~2~~ 22, wherein the first storage environment resides within a first operating system and the second storage environment resides in a second operating system.